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The Plan of Laughing Land

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Money Back
Book

By W. Costley

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J. A. WAYLAND
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The Plan of Laughing Land



A MONEY BACK BOOK

BY W. COSTLEY



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PREFACE.

This is a money back book therefore I am saved the task of making any apologies for it even were I so inclined. I have written this book under protest, for I have waited in vain twenty years for some author to write it. So I concluded to write it myself, and here it is. Dr. Johnson said that it was possible to be a fool in several languages, and that encourages me to say to those critics that will spend their valuable time in searching out the literary defects in the book that they have my entire sympathy and I hope that their labors will be fittingly rewarded. I have not aimed so much to produce a book of literary perfection as I have to present an idea—in fact two ideas.

The first is to show on what an idiotic plan, or rather lack of plan, the present order of society is based. Its inevitable and impending downfall. The second is to convey to the mind of the reader an idea of the new order that will be established on the ruins of the old.

I maintain that it is unthinkable to imagine a new order based on right and justice, without it being based on scientific principles and if so it will have to conform generally to the Plan of Laughing Land.

W. C.

Heart Fomlar

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By W. COSTLEY

THE PLAN OF LAUGHING LAND.

Dear Reader: I am a traveler and a stranger among you. I came from Laughing Land. Of course you don't know where Laughing Land is and just now I can't tell you, but later on after you have heard all that I have to tell you about it and you should like to live in a land like it I will tell you how to do so. I have tarried for some years among you because I am very much interested in your country. In Laughing Land the people don't believe in hell, but some years ago one of our people visited your country, when he returned he was asked where he had been; he replied that he had been to hell. Now our people understood his meaning and when he related what he had seen they concluded that he was nearly right in his statement. They were horrified to think that such a grand country as this should be cursed with a population of barbarians. Now you must know that in Laughing Land everybody is happy. That is why they laugh from the time they are born, laugh all through life and die with a smile on their lips. They are a kind hearted and loving people and when they heard the tales that the traveler told, they considered it to be their duty to try to lead you out of the dismal swamps and black fogs of ignorance and barbarism up to the bright hills of truth and knowledge. To show you how to banish the curse of poverty and toil from your beautiful land and lift the burden of care and fear from every heart, show you how to solve all of your social and political problems, banish crime, prostitution, labor wars, race wars, child labor, political corruption, business corruption, adulteration, bribery and the thousand and one evils with which you are cursed and thereby kept in a state of degradation. I have dwelt here long

enough to know that you really believe that your civilization is of the highest and that there is little or no room for improvement. Believing this, you allow all kinds of crimes to be committed by wholesale, without a word of protest. You are so ignorant as not to know that when men raise the price of ice during the hottest weather, thereby preventing the poorer classes in your great cities from getting enough ice to keep the baby's milk from souring and the food from decaying, keeping cooling drinks from the fevered lips of the sick, they thereby commit murder by wholesale for gold. Nearly everybody in your country is engaged directly or indirectly in the business of murder, robbery, prostitution and crimes of all descriptions. Your newspapers and magazines reek with tales of corruption and crime that pervades every strata of your society. You like to read of these things. It is interesting to read about the rascality of your senators, congressmen, judges, business men and captains of industry, and state and city officials. In describing your political affairs the terms that are oftenest used are boodle, boodlers, graft, grafters, bribe, bribers, and you little realize that the record of the news and advertisements in your press furnish sufficient evidence to convict you of being an uncivilized and barbarous people. The cruel and heartless struggle for gold and bread is the result of your ignorance of the first principles of the science of political economy.

You have continually before your eyes a picture of work and want of the many, and idleness, luxury and waste for the few. You sometimes use the expression, "Wealth beyond the dreams of avarice." There is no such thing as satisfying the greed of the avaricious. The more they get the more they want and the more they get the more power they have to get more. If you were reasonable creatures you could easily see that a few rich men will soon own your country if the present struggle continues. I refer to the current news stating that Rockefeller's income for 1906 was \$60,000,000 or six per cent income on one billion dollars, or three per cent on two billion dollars. With a few associates he

controls the greater part of the industries of your country and soon will control all.

The San Francisco Call of December 16, 1906, editorially deplores the fact that Harriman, your railroad king, had control of 27,000 miles of railroads and had or could get money enough to buy all the roads for sale, mentioning his late purchase of the great Baltimore and Ohio system, the Salt Lake and Los Angeles electric roads; buying control of the Chicago subways, a \$30,000,000 venture; building great car shops etc., and concludes by stating his method is to bond every new enterprise and thus get money to buy others. It says: "There is no reason why this process of absorption should not go on indefinitely, and in fact, it is certain to go on until the whole railroad system of the country is concentrated in two or three hands or ultimately perhaps in one ownership. It is obvious, moreover, that the process will not stop with railroads." The Call is owned by a millionaire, so you see that they know the way things are tending.

You poor people are so stupid as not to see that your captains of industry are rapidly reducing all of you to a condition of industrial vassalage. In a few years longer you will awaken to find yourselves slaves of a great corporation that will own all of your country with its industries; make all the laws and keep you in subjection with an army of hired thugs and murderers.

When you arrive at that condition the women and children slaves of the land can lay the blame where it belongs, that is, at the door of the fool workingmen that vote for the system of private ownership of land and tools. You often use the expression that wealth is power. In Laughing Land we say knowledge is power.

Wealth is not powerful among a people that are possessed of the right kind of knowledge. With their knowledge they command wealth. For instance, in Laughing Land every child about the age of fifteen knows nearly all that there is to know about the science of political economy. This is the mother of the

sciences and even in your dictionaries it is defined as the science of human affairs. It is such a simple science that if a boy or girl in Laughing Land at the age of twenty don't know all that there is to know about it we know that they are mentally weak.

After I explain this science and you can see how easily you can learn all there is to learn about it and what wonders this knowledge can do for you, you will marvel at your own stupidity and marvel still more at the stupidity of those among you that undertake to teach this science. The very name of the science furnishes the key to the storehouse of knowledge and wealth that the science contains. Economy, what does it mean? It means the avoidance of waste. Waste in all its forms, waste wealth, waste labor, waste thought. Thus, in Laughing Land nothing is wasted, not an hour of work nor a vegetable, nor a fruit; not a piece of coal or wood or a crumb of bread. This will appear more marvelous to you when I tell you that we number over 80,000,000 people, and none of them labor. They live in palaces equipped with every modern improvement. They eat the best of food, they wear the best of clothes. When they travel they travel in the most luxurious way, over the best of roads. The cities they live in have no stores and consequently horses and wagons are not needed, therefore they can keep the streets in perfect order, smooth, clean and quiet. In fact the cities are built in parks, where beautiful lawns, shade, nut and fruit trees abound on every hand.

It may be a slight hint to you when I tell you that our system of living will not permit of wasting an acre of ground that will grow anything useful. Thus millions upon millions of acres that are not needed for other purposes are planted to walnut, chestnut, almond and pecan trees. If we were content to live on food of this kind the supply would more than suffice for our needs. But as it is it serves as a food supply for millions of animals that we use for food. Thus we prevent waste.

The trees that are planted in our cities and suburbs are not planted alone for the purpose of utilizing the land solely for economic reasons, but it is an institution of Laughing Land based on sentiment and reason. We plant a tree for every child born in Laughing Land. That tree is known as the child's birth tree. When it is old enough to understand it is taught to know that it's birth tree is it's very own. It is taught how to nurture and care for it, to shelter and protect the birds that make their home in its branches. But the fruit of the child's own birth tree is the forbidden fruit for that child. It may eat freely of all the other trees of the land and no one will say it nay, but the fruit of its own tree it must not eat.

The economic and moral reasons upon which this institution of birth trees is grounded is to teach the children the value and virtue of working for the benefit of others. The children see the evidence constantly before their eyes that they thereby provide themselves bountifully with fruit. They see with their own eyes the beautiful results of **combined** efforts for the **common good**. In this way they are taught the simple truths upon which the grand science of political economy is based.

Thus in Laughing Land we find it economical to see that every babe and child has the best of care, the best of surroundings and the best of education. And to provide bountifully for the needs of the old people, surround them with every evidence of love and reverence.

Our care of all the children is an investment that pays magnificent dividends. They are the only ones that are allowed to operate an insurance company in the land. There is not an orphan in the land. The parents of the child may be dead but the child never for an instant lacks the best of loving care that the people can provide. Each and every one of them is reared and cared for as if they were of the blood royal. We grown people do not conduct life and accident or fire insurance companies, or sick and death benefit associations, or fraternal orders of any kind that simply waste the

labor of millions of people. We don't have them simply because they are not needed. As I said before, we insure with the children, and teach them all that it is necessary for them to know in order to become usefull members of society. When they reach that age of their existence we begin to draw our dividends and these dividends insure us against want or the fear of want as long as we live.

There is no such word as charity used by our people because no one needs charity. We are all wealthy and well provided for from birth to death and have attained this happy state by reason of our knowledge of the Science of Political Economy.

What I have said thus far is merely a hint of the plan of Laughing Land. I know that the reader that has followed closely what I have said remembers that I stated that no one labored in Laughing Land, and neither do they, because it is not necessary that they should. By managing our affairs with strict regard to the science of economy we can produce all the wealth we care to consume without any one doing hard labor. After I have explained how this is done you will marvel at the simplicity of the plan. Before I explain this however, I want to ask a few questions that you will be able to answer. The answers will flash into your brain and you will know that you could not answer differently if you would answer truthfully.

In your cities you see thousands upon thousands of horses and wagons with their drivers madly racing in all directions delivering vegetables, bread, milk, meat, groceries, dry goods, laundry, furniture and commodities of all descriptions. Did you ever stop to think that all of these people are racing around like mad because they are not working according to any plan whatever? Now, here is question No. 1: Suppose a baker that has 500 or 1000 customers scattered all over the city could have these customers next door to his bakery. Don't you think he could easily deliver their bread next door without the use of ten or twelve horses and wagons? If he did not need them he would

not need a foul and ill smelling stable to keep them in and would not need the services of a stableman, or a blacksmith, harness maker, wagon maker, horse doctor, etc. Now, if he did not need them there would be a dozen or two of horses and men out of work.

Under these circumstances the horses under your foolish system would be better off than the men. They would not have to worry about another job or paying stable rent or food bills, doctor bills, etc. All of these things would be provided for them. And even if they did suffer they would not have families like the men, whose wife and offspring have to suffer with them, if not actual want, then anxious care. Now, suppose the customers of the baker were also the customers of a certain butcher, don't you think he could supply them with meat without the use of horses and wagons if he was next door? The vegetable man, grocer, etc., could do the same. The aggregate amount of labor saved would be tremendous. The customers might derive a benefit and the boss baker, grocer, butcher, etc., surely would. But the poor men that were thrown out of work would suffer. They would have to search diligently for other positions, perhaps spend what little money they had saved before they found another job.

Now, the fact is, that the men that rule your country, the richest men in your land, the so-called captains of industry, owe all of their success to the fact that they know the advantage to be derived from **combination**. But this knowledge in their hands is a curse instead of a blessing. They become selfish, cruel and brutalized. They don't hesitate to commit any crime that will place more power in their hands. There is no such thing as satisfying their greed for wealth and power that it gives them among an ignorant and uneducated people. They don't hesitate to bribe legislators, judges, officials high and low, adulterate, cheat, lie and rob if thereby they can gain more gold and power. They don't hesitate to exploit and rob even poor women and helpless children, or the maimed, halt and blind. There is no crime too low or brutal for them to com-

mit through their agents. The nations led and ruled by such as these are doomed to suffer the torments of hell on earth.

I that know you well and know how you have become the victims of false education and consequently have low ideals, sometimes stand in amazement at the stupidity that you constantly exhibit concerning matters of the most vital interest to your welfare individually and collectively. For instance, you have what you call a republican form of government. If I ask what sort of government a republican form of government is ninety per cent of you men could give no answer at all. The others might say: It means the rule of the majority. I ask what class in society is in the majority, the rich class or the poor class. They answer the poor class. I ask if the poor class or the rich class manages the political affairs of the country. They answer the rich class. I ask them if that is the case why do they call it a republican form of government. They take refuge in silence.

Some say they are republicans and others say they are democrats. I ask them to tell me the difference between them and they take refuge in silence.

I ask them if they are satisfied with the way their political affairs are managed and nearly all say no. I ask them to tell me the meaning or definition of the term politics and nearly all remain silent. In a crowd of a thousand people you might find one that would answer that it means to discuss and decide upon a policy or plan of conducting the affairs of the people at large. Then I ask if that is so, what policy or plan have the poor people to do away with the misrule of the rich. They remain silent because they are ashamed to admit that they have no policy of their own because they haven't common sense enough to formulate one.

But they love to think that they are not fools on matters political and love to go through the forms of voting. Having no policy of their own they vote for the rich people's plan of government. The results are seen to be that the rich people don't do any useful labor

but enjoy all the luxuries of life while the workers that do all the useful labor are poor and never free from the fear of want.

If it was not such a tragedy it would be amusing to see a long-faced professor of political economy that you have in your universities to teach the science, write big books and give long lectures on a science that he knows as little about as a bug on a twig. And by the time the students graduate under him they know nearly as little about the science as the professor.

Now, in the plan of Laughing Land, if you can find in any part of it that it does not provide for the prevention of all waste you can depend upon it that it is faulty at that point and is not scientific. Then you can reason out for yourself how that waste can be avoided.

The problem we have to solve is this: Given a country miles in extent with magnificent resources that will enable the population of 80,000,000 people to live in comfort and luxury, each and every one of them without their having to perform hard labor. To those unacquainted with the science of economy this might seem to be an utter impossibility, but the solution of the problem is the simplest thing imaginable. In Laughing Land every house, factory, building, railroad, wagon road etc., is built in just that place where it can be used to the best advantage. Thus every city is built to fit into the plan like a dovetail in a good piece of cabinet work.

A LAUGHING LAND HOUSE.

The houses are built of the best material, in five sections, on a tract of ground 500 feet square. On each corner of this square a house is built large enough to accomodate comfortably 250 to 300 people. Two of these houses are used as residences and schools for the boys and girls. They are in fact boarding schools. The two other corner houses are used for the residence of the parents of these children. Care is taken that

every room has sunlight and a full circulation of air and furnished in the most comfortable manner.

In the center of the plat there is a splendid building large enough to contain a swimming bath, gymnasium, bowling alleys, billiard room, library, lecture hall, music room, etc., large enough to meet the needs of the family of about a thousand people.

The corner buildings are connected with each other and the central building by glass-covered corridors. These corridors are not only used for passageways between the buildings but also as conservatories where many beautiful flowers are kept for the pleasure of the family. Beautiful lawns and trees surround every house; in fact the cities present the appearance of great parks. The streets are wide and smooth and made of the best material. There are no horses or stores, or office buildings, or any evidence of trade or traffic. There is an atmosphere of art and refinement that pervades the length and breadth of the cities. Beautiful statues and sparkling fountains abound on every hand.

If you were in a position to get a bird's eye view of a city of Laughing Land that had a population of 200,000 people you would only see about 200 houses or buildings. These buildings are built on the same architectural plan, but this plan is the best that art and science can design to meet the needs of the people. The city is equipped with a street railway system with swiftly moving electric cars that stop at sheltered stations before every house. This system enables the citizens to travel over the city in bad weather without the use of umbrellas or rain clothing.

The roofs of the houses are used as skating rinks and wherever two or more houses are on a level the roofs are connected by light and strong bridges that enable the people to pass from one house to the other without descending to the street. In some cities nearly all the houses are connected in this way and as nearly all the people use roller skates and bicycles, they use the roof roads to a great extent when traveling in the city.

There is a magnificent system of illuminating the city by electricity and on festive occasions when the city is illuminated by thousands of different colored lights it presents a sight so beautiful as never to be forgotten. A bird's-eye view could not reveal to your eyes a very important part of its magnificent equipment. If you could see the perfection of its sewer system you would marvel with wonder to see how the resources of science and art had been drawn upon in order to make them as perfect as possible. No sewage is allowed to pollute the streams of the country and thereby scatter the seeds of fever and disease broadcast. Every city in the land is equipped with a great reduction plant where the sewage and the garbage is treated and used as fertilizer, etc. Thus we preserve our health and increase our wealth at the same time. All of this work is done with the best machinery.

A catastrophe like that which swept your city of San Francisco is utterly impossible in Laughing Land, because every house is as near fire-proof as possible and each one is equipped with every possible device for extinguishing fire. Our water systems are the best possible and the houses are far enough apart to reduce all danger of a conflagration to the minimum.

Contrast this plan with your cities where miles of wooden buildings are joined as close to the next one as possible. The great fires in Boston, Chicago, Baltimore and San Francisco have not taught the poor fools in San Francisco anything and they are busy as they can be building a city of wooden boxes ready for another great fire.

Under the cities of Laughing Land there is a splendid subway system that taps every house in the city. A perfect railway system is operated in these subways. Having these we don't need to have tens of thousands of horses and wagons traveling the streets of the city. I see that in your cities of Chicago and New York you have made a silly attempt to introduce subways. You will not be able to derive much benefit from them until you learn to build cities for subways instead of building subways for your cities that are laid out like the

plan was drawn by a lunatic. For instance, to show how our subways save the labor of millions of men, I will take the one commodity of coal alone. We do not handle coal from the time it leaves the mines loaded on trap bottom cars until it is dumped into the coal-cellars of our houses or our factories. We thus save the labor of millions of men that under your foolish system are doing useless labor in shoveling coal from cars to carts, hauling it to coal yards, dumping it out, weighing it, sacking it, loading it again, hauling it past a hundred coal yards to its destination on the other side of the city to the fourth or fifth floor in a house that stands next door to a coal yard.

Just stop here for a minute and try to estimate the amount of labor wasted in handling this one commodity. The millions of horses engaged in the work, the stables that shelter them, the great army of hostlers, harness makers, blacksmiths, wagon makers, horse doctors, etc., the labor spent in raising these millions of horses, providing food for them, the clerical work that goes with all this waste of labor, etc. When you thoroughly grasp this idea you will be able to grasp the idea of the magnitude of the idiocy of the people that live under and support a wasteful and cruel system like this that you call the competitive system.

The other things that we require are handled in the same method that we handle coal. Apart from the city proper we establish our system of factories, mills, bakeries, laundries, etc.

These are all built on locations that are considered best for the most perfect economy to be observed in the administration of affairs. For instance, wheat is shipped directly from the farm to our flour mill and next to the flour mill we have a great bakery equipped with the very best of machinery and ovens that are large enough to bake all the bread and cake needed in the city. These are loaded on railway cars and sent to the city through the subways to every house. Groceries and supplies of every kind are sent in the same way. We have one great laundry equipped with

the best machinery and the laundry is brought from the city and returned by means of the subway.

Tailoring, renovating, shoe repaiirng, etc., is done on the same great scale and where machinery can be used to advantage the best is used.

On the suburbs of the city are great vegetable gardens where all of the vegetables that are required in the city are produced. These gardens are equipped with every possible device that can save labor. Whole acres of ground can be watered by simply turning a valve. Hundreds of acres are under glass and all sorts of fruits and vegetables are produced artificially. The head gardener knows to a pound just how many vegetables are needed in the city and that many are sent and no more, and thus all waste is avoided.

Now compare your own wasteful and idiotic method with our scientific plan. You have no system and consequently waste millions of tons of vegetables annually, besides the waste labor of hundreds of thousands of men and horses that are engaged directly and indirectly in the business. In the first place the men that raise vegetables don't know how many his competitors are raising. When they are ready for market they are sent to the city in the middle of the night or early morning, where they are delivered to the wholesale market. There they are dumped out and displayed for sale. Hundreds of people are engaged in the business of selling the same kind of vegetables and fruits, etc. Thousands of **keen** business men and women rise early in the morning so as to get to the market as early as possible, where they haggle and bargain like the fools that they are. What they buy is again loaded and taken to a thousand different vegetable and fruit stores. There the stock is dumped out again and displayed for sale. Thousands of men and boys with horses and wagons scatter over the city to get the orders of the customers. Fifty thousand different orders are collected in this way and by telephone, etc. These fifty thousand orders have to be filled; selected, weighed, wrapped, boxed, every item noted and kept account of. A very bedlam of noise

and bustle accompanies all of these various processes.

The thousands of wagons scatter in all directions racing like mad to deliver their route on time. All of the routes cross and recross thousands upon thousands of times. It is no unusual sight to see a half dozen vegetable wagons delivering in the same block at the same time. It is seldom that they have two customers adjoining. The stock that is not disposed of in this way is sorted and resorted so as to show the best on top. Hundreds of tons decay before it is sold. The whole process is worked out as if it was planned by a raving lunatic and as if there was not waste enough already, peddlers with their wagons travel all over the city and stand next door to a vegetable store and shout at the top of their voices, "potato-oo-es, cabbages, turnips, fine apples," etc. Your grave and reverend professor of political economy will pass through the bustle and roar of your cities with a smile on his silly old face and say to himself, "This is indeed a splendid system."

In our cities we have a pneumatic tube system that reaches every house. By using these tubes the mail for a great city can be distributed in a few minutes. We don't have a half dozen newspapers printing the same foreign, domestic and local news. We only have one paper in each city and there are no advertisements in that one. The papers are sent to our houses through the tubes and are distributed in a few minutes. We have other use for our children than to abuse them by compelling them to rise early in the morning and sell papers in all sorts of weather, cold winter storms and rains. There is no better evidence of your barbarism needed than to see your children, crippled, blind and old men and women selling newspapers, tips on horse races, lead pencils, etc. The fact that you allow your little children to be used as messengers to carry messages into dens of vice shows what depth of degradation you have reached. But, being barbarians, you can't see the wrong that you inflict on the innocent children.

Every house in Laughing Land has a telephone and

telegraph office that enables the people to keep constantly in touch with the news of the world. Every house, work-shop and factory is provided with phonographs and mechanical musical instruments of the best and the people can listen to the reproduction of the best music, singing, lectures, etc., whenever they wish. In fact, the lives of the people are spent in a constant round of healthful enjoyment that does not cease even when they are at work. I will ask you to be content for a while with this brief description of a city in Laughing Land until I describe to you how the country or farm is scientifically organized even to its farthest limits.

THE COUNTRY IN LAUGHING LAND.

A traveler from your country leaving a city in Laughing Land would see a sight so vastly different from what you see in this country that he would be inclined to think that he was in a paradise. But I must tell you that in our land we have no advantage of you whatever in the way of superior inventions, natural resources, etc.

The only advantages we have is in the scientific way we manage our affairs. On the suburbs of our cities you would first see the vast vegetable gardens. Passing these you would enter the great dairy farm with its thousands of cows of the best breeds, magnificent stables equipped with every possible device for milking, feeding and cleaning the cows and stables; the great ice plant for cooling this vast quantity of milk, the great creamery with its butter and cheese making machines, the sterilizing department, etc. You would not find any one engaged in doctoring the milk, butter or cheese with poisonous preservatives and adulterants.

When the foods leave the dairy they are shipped in refrigerator cars that deliver them to the store-houses of the houses in the city and as every house has an ice plant the consumers keep the food in first class condition until used.

Now please combine this system of handling these

things with your own, that allows your cows to be owned privately and kept in filthy surroundings, where diseased and healthy cows are kept together, the milk adulterated, the ice controlled by a trust that raises the price in the hottest weather.

Take the pains to read the reports of the hundreds of thousands of men, women and children, mostly children, that are annually murdered by your **honorable business men** in the milk and ice business. The reports show that in your great cities the poor die off four times faster than the well-to-do and the rich. This is caused by the filthy tenements they live in, bad air and defective sanitary arrangements, lack of proper food and proper care in sickness, etc. The doctors, druggists and undertakers all prey upon these helpless, ignorant people. Now ask yourself if you are a civilized man or woman when you **Stand Pat** for it.

After leaving the dairy farm you enter the agricultural district proper. You would not see millions of miles of fences, bad roads full of mud and dust, tumble down farm houses and barns, rickety bridges, dismal looking and dirty country towns, seedy looking and shabby people. If it happened to be a wheat growing country you would see a wheat field miles in extent and not a fence in sight. If it was harvest time you would see the work being done with the aid of the best machinery, great combined harvesters and threshers, power trucks for taking the grain to the great barns or cars as fast as it would be threshed. You would see a great farm house, large enough to accommodate all the people that were required to operate this great tract of land. This would be built on the same first-class plan as the houses in the city, equipped with every possible convenience for the comfort and amusement of the people. Lawns, useful and beautiful trees and plants, statues, fountains, etc., would surround the house. Play grounds and schools for the children, great barns for storing the crops and the farm machinery, horses, cows, chickens, etc., repair shops and blacksmith and harness shops, etc. All of these buildings are protected by a first-class fire guard

and water system, that can be used when needed to water the crops in a dry season. In fact, a farm is almost a complete city in itself. It is equipped with a telephone and telegraph system and a perfect railway system taps every farm, and as the roads are smooth and well kept, automobiles are extensively used by the people in going to and from their work on the farm.

Each farm has a head farmer or superintendent, with his assistants, foremen, etc. These positions are elective and the operators on the farm elect them. It is the duty of the head farmer to report the condition of the farm, the condition and amount of the crop, etc., to his superior, who is a commander of a farm district or division. This official reports to his superior officer the commanding farmer-general of the country. A national bulletin is published daily giving all the news and condition of the crops, etc. With this scientific organization, if the necessity arises for ten or twenty thousand men to gather a crop quickly or give assistance where it is needed, the officer in command of the farms of the country details the men from the emergency squad from as many houses as needed. Every citizen of Laughing Land has to serve one month, more or less, on the emergency squad; that means that he or she is subject to sudden calls if their services are needed in case of emergency. By this system all loss of crops for lack of assistance is prevented.

Under this system it can be seen at a glance just how much wheat, corn, etc., as the case might be, is raised in a year, and just how much labor time it took to raise it. I mention this here in order that I can refer to it later when I explain the money system of the country.

All of the farms are run on as large a scale as economy dictates, and the land best suited for certain products is planted accordingly. The level lands as far as practicable are planted with those crops that can be handled by machinery. The hill lands, where machinery cannot be used to advantage, is given over to crops that need to be handled by hand, like beans, mel-

ons, grapes, etc.

THE GRAZING LANDS.

Adjoining the farm lands proper there is a vast territory set apart for stock raising. This industry, like all the others, is operated on the same scientific plan. Great sheds are erected at the most available points on the ranges in order to protect the cattle from cold winter storms, snow, etc. Great supplies of food are kept in reserve and in case of lack of rain and consequent lack of food on the ranges, the reserve stock of food in every farm house in the country can be used in case of need. Thus the ranges are kept in perfect condition, diseased cattle are weeded out and the herds constantly improved. As the demand dictates, these cattle are driven into fattening corrals, where they are stall fed and put in perfect condition. Slaughter houses, ice plants, etc., are located at the most advantageous points on the ranges.

Vast sections of the country suitable for the purpose are set aside as timber culture land and game preserves. All useful wild game is preserved in these reserves,—deer, antelope, elk, buffalo, bear and wild fowls of all kinds. These game preserves furnish a very important part of the food supply of the people with little expenditure of labor. Bee culture is another very important industry, being organized on a national scale they are cultivated in every available place and they produce a large supply of pure food with very little labor expended.

Under our system of national organization of industries every animal and plant that is useful to society is cultivated under the best possible conditions. And on the other hand, every plant and animal that is useless is ruthlessly exterminated.

Now that I have described the organized plan by which the industries of the country are operated, you can plainly see that the whole is simply a great machine for the purpose of producing and distributing commodities of wealth with the least expenditure of labor and effort. It now remains for me to tell you

something about the people that operate this great machine. The money that is used and the incentive to effort that urges all to do their best. In order to do this I will have to take you back to the city. I say city because when I describe one city the same description will serve for all of the cities of the land.

THE CITIZENS OF LAUGHING LAND.

Every child born in Laughing Land is born under the most favorable conditions. The mother is provided with the best of care; as soon as she desires the infant is placed in the nursery of the house, where it is provided with the best of nurses and medical attention. It is directly under the watchful eyes of its mother. When it is old enough to play with toys it is provided with them. When it is able to understand it is taught to play with letter blocks, color balls, etc. As they progress children are taught to paste pictures of animals, plants, etc., and thereby learn their names. They are then shown how to play with a sectional globe of the world, to arrange the continents, islands, mountains, rivers, lakes, etc. Figures of animals and the different nations of the world are given to them and they are taught to place them in their respective countries. In this way, while they are at play the foundation of their education is laid. Later on they are taught to make simple little toys, such as kites, pin-wheels, etc. Sectional toys substantially made are presented to them and they are taught to take them apart and put them together. They learn to know at a glance where any section of a toy belongs. In this way they are taught their first lesson in order. As they advance in ability they are taught to use simple tools and make simple toys, wagons, houses, wind mills, etc. When they are about twelve years of age they are sent to the great city school and playground in the center of the city. Here their studies are directed to learning the mechanical arts while taking their grammer school course. Here the boys are taught to make automobiles, gas engines, elevators, and all kinds of machines in miniature; to make and

operate miniature railways, electric plants, steamships, etc. They are taught how to make a model of a Laughing Land house from the subway to the roof.

Under a school system like this when a boy is about seventeen years old he knows at least half a dozen mechanical trades. For you must know that in Laughing Land we don't produce any common laboring men or women. The girls are taught to sew common things, such as dust clothes, and to make little repairs to clothing, etc. Later on they are taught how to design and make doll dresses, hats, etc. As they progress they are taught how to make baby clothes, and then their innocent play is turned to practical use. When they are old enough they take their course in domestic economy. The cooking school class is next to the kitchen of the house, and as fast as the girls graduate they are allowed to take their turn in the kitchen, where they get practical experience. Every girl has to take her course in the kitchen, dining room, the upstairs department, the nursery, and then as kindergarten teacher. By the time she reaches this station it is time she should begin her high school studies, where she will learn music, languages, designing, fancy needle work, etc.

When the boys and girls graduate from high school they take up the active duties of life. While taking their college course they must devote one hour a day to useful employment. When they are so employed the value of their services compensates for all that they consume, so that their education from this stage is not a tax on the people. The boys and girls are allowed to choose that line of work that best suits their taste. None of the work that they are called upon to perform will be hard or toilsome. Their work will all be equally useful to the community. For instance, there are so many students required to fill the classes in the medical colleges. The boys and girls have an equal show. Those passing the best examinations are chosen to fill these vacancies. Students for the other professions are chosen in the same way. If an ambitious boy or girl fails to pass the first time, they are

permitted to take the examination on the next examination day. By this method all the boys and girls have an even show and the people have the advantage of having those best qualified for a position or a certain line of work to do that work.

Outside of the professional lines there are vacancies to be filled in many lines of work. There are the ranks of the skilled trades, the apprentices for the gardening and farming class, the household duty class, etc. As all of the boys have received a fair training in these lines the selections are made by lot and the boy drawing a carpenter job is placed under the direction of the carpentering department. If he draws a household duty job he is placed in his own house, where he takes the place of janitor, elevator boy, engineer, etc. After the boys are divided up in this way, they are permitted to exchange jobs before they settle down to work. As apprentices they are simply a reserve body to act as substitutes for those that are regulars in their line. The working day is about two hours, six days in the week, or less time a day for seven days a week. So you see the college students have plenty of time to study and enjoy themselves after doing their day's work. If they are ambitious to become artists, writers, inventors, etc., they have plenty of time to devote to the study that they like best.

As rapid and safe travel is one of the principal features of Laughing Land the students in a few minutes can go from any part of the city to the college that is situated on the most available site.

The girls also choose the line of work that they prefer and take the necessary examinations. Failing these, they are apportioned during their college course to do their share of work in the household, the laundry, fruit preserving factories, weaving mills, clothing factories, etc. They have an equal chance to secure any position that they may aspire to, whether it is in the professional field or not. If they are competent to pass the examinations they are not barred on account of sex. During their leisure hours they can devote

their time to the study of music, painting, sculpture and art, and science in all its branches. If they are not fairly accomplished in one of these lines the fault is wholly their own. After the college course is finished they are considered to be full fledged citizens and enlisted units in the industrial army of the nation.

THE MONEY OF LAUGHING LAND.

I have outlined briefly the plan of organization of the industries and the education of the people. It remains to tell you about the money that is used. This money can be compared to the oil on a machine. It makes the system work smoothly. It is absolutely scientific. Money that nurtures virtue instead of vice; money that cannot be stolen; money that cannot be lost; money that cannot be used to bribe; money that cannot buy virtue; money that cannot feed vice—in fact, a perfect money.

You remember that in speaking of the wheat growing industry I showed how it was known by the department of agriculture just how many bushels of wheat was raised in a season and how many men were employed, and how many hours of work it took to produce it. The amount and the time it took to produce all other commodities is ascertained in the same way. Thus the labor time it cost to produce a pound of butter, a suit of clothes, a hat, a pound of meat, etc., can be closely estimated. Then there is to be considered the time spent by those that indirectly aided in producing these commodities. There are the services of the railway people, the doctors, the civil servants, the scientist,—in fact all of those that rendered useful services to society. The claim of the children and the exempts, such as those afflicted with sickness, accident, etc. Then there are the retired workers, the crippled, blind, etc. All of these have a just claim upon the actual producers' product in payment for service rendered to them in childhood, their education, the protection given to them in sickness, accident and old age, etc. Calculating from this basis, the amount of social labor time, as distinct from actual

labor time spent in producing a given commodity is taken as a **standard of value and a measure of price**. Thus, if it cost a half second of social labor time to produce a loaf of bread the price of the loaf to be consumed would be one second of actual labor time more or less as the case might be. A suit of clothes that cost one half day of social labor time to produce would be sold at the price of one day's actual labor time. The difference between actual labor time and social labor time is estimated yearly by the heads of the different departments. If a mistake is made one year it will rectify itself the next. For instance, if the supply of cloth shows a tendency to exceed the reserve supply that is considered necessary to always keep on hand, the cloth mills are slowed down and the dispaced workers are drafted to some other department that has no surplus, or not a sufficient surplus of products. The price of cloth is reduced as it has been demonstrated that fewer workers can produce all that is needed. Thus every member of society derives a direct benefit when a surplus is produced. On the other hand, if the wheat or corn crop is not as large as usual and the reserve stores of wheat have to be drawn upon, the price of bread is raised to every consumer. In this way every member of society pays their share to sustain those workers that have through no fault of their own failed to produce the usual amount of grain per head. You can easily see that this system of estimating price works mechanically and automatically.

The actual money used in exchange is given to each citizen every 1st of January, in the shape of a labor check book. In this book he or she writes their signatures and their photograph is placed therein. The number of their house and district is stated. Surrounded by these precautions the book cannot be used by any other than the one it is issued to. When the bearers work the time that they work is credited to them in their book by the head of the department in which they work. When they buy anything they are debited with the social labor cost of what they buy. Thus it can be seen at a glance at their check book

just how they stand with society. If there is a balance in their favor they can buy anything that they wish from the store house of their homes or order it from the factories as long as the balance lasts. When the accounts are even it shows conclusively that the bearer has no claim on society. This rule of course doesn't apply to the exempts, but only to the able bodied men and women. Thus you will see that there is no provision made for able bodied beggars for there is no excuse for begging where work is provided for everyone. There are no restrictions placed on the time people choose to work. When all are working in harmony there is no waste of labor. One hour's work per day will suffice to keep the individual supplied with all the necessities of life.

Two hours of work will supply them with necessities, comforts and not a few luxuries. Those that desire to take vacations, own automobiles, join yacht clubs, etc., can work an hour or two longer per day and with the increased income supply themselves with any luxury that they desire. It is not unusual for a number of individuals to club together and work eight hours a day for a year or so and with the credit thus obtained charter a yacht from the government and take a cruise wherever they desire. Every family that desires it can have an automobile simply by extending their hours of work and with the credits obtained buy one. In fact, in Laughing Land everybody can enjoy luxuries that are only enjoyed by the rich among you.

When we wish to travel in foreign countries we buy gold and silver from the government in just the same way that we buy bread. That is, by paying the social labor cost of producing the gold and silver. The things that we buy from foreign countries is paid for in gold or silver or other commodities. These exchanges are carried on by our national purchasing department. I will leave you with this brief sketch of the money of the people and the workings of exchange and call your attention to the following facts that no doubt you have noticed: In the plan here outlined you can find no room in this society for any but actual

useful workers. You will find no place for business men, lawyers, police, insurance men, real estate or captains of industry, stock brokers, speculators, no trade unions or fraternal orders, no customs officers, bankers, contractors, drummers, peddlers, agents, tramps, philanthropists, or charitable societies, no night schools, or children's aid societies, no prostitutes and the great army of men that make a living from their shame, no great army of political roustabouts and ward-heelers, no trust or labor problems, no strikes or lockouts. If you will study this plan you will see how it makes it utterly impossible for these useless people to find a home in Laughing Land.

I have given you a hint as to the way the homes are conducted. It remains to give a closer look into the plan upon which they are conducted. In the first place the women are entirely independent of the men as far as depending upon them as bread winners is concerned. Under the system the woman's work is as valuable to society as the work of the men and they are paid accordingly. If they are working in the household their labor check book is credited by the head house keeper with the time she works. If her duties are outside in the great laundry or other of the departments she is paid the same as are the men. When she buys she is debited just as are the men. Thus it is plainly seen that she is no longer dependent upon the whims of men in order to get along in the world. She has as much show if she is homely as if she is comely. She don't need to marry for a home or for any other consideration save love alone. She is surrounded with every uplifting and refining influence. She can look to the future full of confidence that as long as she discharges her duties to society, society will discharge its duty towards her. Thus she is a free woman and no longer the slave of man, but his equal politically and economically. In Laughing Land a family of a thousand people become related by blood or marriage in the course of three generations. This is brought about by the fact that there is no need of families separating and going to the four corners of the earth

to make a living. Consequently in most cases they stay at home with their own people and thus it is that the children are born and reared among their own kin. The head housekeeper is elected by the vote of the people of her own blood and she is in fact as well as in name the mother of the house. When, on account of increase in population another house is needed the men with their wives that want it prepare everything in advance. The plan for the new home is just the same as the plan of the old. The men who are all artisans, build the house. The women prepare the linen bedding and decorations, paint the pictures, weave the rugs, etc. In this way the furniture and decorations of a house expresses the individual taste and artistic ability and conceptions of the people that live in it. All of the work concerned is done as a pleasure and a labor of love, because all concerned know that it is their own and their loved ones' home.

The advantages derived from this plan of house keeping are too numerous to mention. The number of people in the house make it economical to keep a doctor, dentist, druggist, store house, etc. The doctors, etc., are usually members of the family. The ball, music, lecture and billiard rooms, libraries, etc., offer a constant round of amusement and instruction to the family. Grandfathers and grandmothers with their children around them can spend the evening of their lives as happily as their childhood days. When the girls and boys reach the proper age and desire to marry they can do so without giving a thought to the morrow.

Dear reader, how do you think prostitution and crime could gain a foothold in a house like this or a city of houses like this? But let us suppose that a crime should be committed. It could not be robbery, because the robber could not gain by robbing any one of their money or labor time check for it would be of no use to him. A girl could not prostitute herself if she so desired. No one could give or take a bribe and there would be no incentive to bribery if they could. If a crime was committed the criminal could

be easily caught if he ran away simply by publishing the number of his labor check book and canceling the account. Thus he would be compelled to surrender himself.

But it must be borne in mind that there would be no incentive to commit crime for gain. There would be no incentive to rob by adulterating goods, food or medicine. All citizens having equal rights in the ownership of land and tools, there would be no conflicting business interests in the land, therefore there could be no land titles, no tax of any sort. Consequently all the machinery of law and government as you know it are wiped out of existence.

The head house keeper and board of directors in every house are empowered to enforce the rules of the house and thus, for instance, if an inmate drank to excess and became offensive the case would be reported to these and the evidence heard, and if guilty the offender could be effectually disciplined by curtailing his right to buy intoxicating liquors and, in extreme cases stopping it altogether. By this simple method the great evil of the liquor traffic would be abolished. In fact, there is no social evil that exists today but what could be easily and simply abolished. There are no fights between capital and labor because there are no trade or labor unions with their tremendous waste of time, money and energy. Everybody is in the same union that owns and operates all the industries. Race riots and race antagonisms are unknown because the workers would not and can not compete one against the other. No individual can be exploited or a profit made from their labor, therefore the ignorant can not be robbed by the intelligent. Thus the incentive to injustice is removed. People where all are surrounded by an uplifting environment appreciate each other as economic and political equals and social relations are arranged to suit the individual taste.

Now, I must dwell for a short time on a description of the incentive to effort. It is undoubtedly true that many are satisfied to lead the simple life. But the

great majority are spurred forward to achieve fame and honor in all lines of human activities. The highest positions in the land are open to them if they have the ability to win them. For instance, in the fields of art, science and literature a boy, or girl, or man, or woman perfecting an invention or painting a picture or writing a book, or making a useful discovery in the science of medicine, or chemistry, etc., are rewarded by the people, who vote them labor time according to the merit of their work. For instance, a household can reward its best musician by voting the individual into the office of master of music of the household, the city or county, also confer rewards when merited. Artists, scholars and inventors, etc., when their work is accepted, receive what is considered by the judges to be a just compensation for their work. With this reward for their ability they can devote their time to the work they like best. Those that achieve national honor are rewarded by being made members of the faculty of the great universities of the country where they are surrounded with every thing that the people can furnish in order to aid them to achieve greater victories in their art or profession. What greater reward could a grateful people give or a patriot ask?

And now, dear reader, I will ask you to stop and reason just a little while and ask yourself if there is any part of the plan herein outlined that you consider far-fetched and impossible of realization. If you think so I want to call your attention to the work and plans of the great captains of industry of the country. Each and every one of them are working forward on a plan identical with this in every respect with the exception that they aim to organize the industries of society on a scientific plan for their own **selfish benefit**. They take advantage of the ignorance of you people to grab the railways, gas, water, telephone, telegraphs, water fronts, factories, forests, mines, mills, land and tools of the country. During the process of organizing these on an increasingly large scale they resort to every species of crime and rascality, from bribery to murder by wholesale. The ignorant people look on at

this tremendous revolution in industrial development with little or no interest, never realizing that when the work of Rockefeller, Harriman and the other captains of industry is finished it means that you as a nation will be simply reduced to a condition of industrial feudalism, the rich to be a nobility of money—mad lunatics outrivaling Rome in her palmiest days of luxury, vice, crime and wastefulness.

The middle class will be salaried officers of the corporations, eagerly and constantly seeking ways and means to gain favor in the eyes of their masters, heartless, arrogant and domineering to all below them, but cringing, toadying, fawning and humbly submissive to those above; the working class, the serfs, that dare not lift their eyes to the face of their masters, mere appendages to the machines that their masters own, in constant fear of the master's blacklist and the club and gun of the master's guards; mean, contemptible, despicable **slaves**.

And now, dear reader, don't think that this picture is one whit overdrawn. The working class with few exceptions vote for industrial feudalism every time they get a chance to vote. They are beastlike in their ignorance and stupidity in voting for a system of society that deprives them of access to the natural resources of their country and makes them mere dependants on the few that they permit to own the land and tools, when by right, by justice, by virtue of their numbers they should be the owners of their own land and tools and their means of living. Just consider for a moment the situation reversed. Imagine the workers in the position of the masters and the masters doing the work of the land, toiling in the mines, mills, factories and on the farms for a pittance, with strikes, boycotts, evictions, every advance in wages met by an advance in price of the necessities of life, anxious care never absent, living from hand to mouth, having to spend their hard earned money to support their unions and pay lodge dues, to provide for sickness, etc., to live in a seething hell of corruption, bribery, adulteration, graft, heartless landlords, sharks and rascals on

every hand ready to rob them of what little savings they might have gathered at no telling what sacrifice; to look forward to old age with fear and trembling after a long life spent in toil and drudgery.

Imagine the capitalist class in this position with political power in their hands that would enable them to capture the country and administer it for their own benefit. How many election days would they let pass, do you think, before they would combine at the ballot box and capture the country and put the workers back in their old places as wage slaves?

CONCLUSION.

Reader, the helpless children, mothers, aged and suffering members of the working class ask you to choose whom you will serve, the rich or the poor. There is no middle ground. Those of you that decide to vote for, work for and fight for the property rights of the rich deserve that your mothers, wives, children and sisters shall look upon you with the contempt that you deserve, aye, even to spit upon your unhallowed graves. You, and you only, have the power to banish the curse of poverty from the land. The times are portentous. Millions of the working class are suffering the tortures of hell while you stand scratching your stupid head. Duty stands before you and demands that you take place in the ranks of the army of Social revolution and be prepared to work, talk, vote, fight and die, if needs be, for your class, your home, your loved ones, for Freedom.

NOTICE.—The sequel to the Plan of Laughing Land will be published in the near future. The principal features of this edition will deal with the presentation of a practical plan for the immediate abolition of poverty and the ways and means to organize for the purpose of establishing society on a scientific basis. Those interested are asked to address the author, 1234 Broadway, San Francisco.

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